THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that a preliminary inquiry conducted by them revealed that some of the programmes sanctioned for North East Channel by the then Director, Programme Production Centre (North East) of Doordarshan, Guwahati, were approved in violation of the prescribed guidelines for commissioning of programmes in Doordarshan.

(c) Shri B. Chakraborty, the then Director, Programme Production Centre (North East) of Doordarshan, Guwahati has been *prima facie* found to have committed certain irregularities.

(d) Shri B. Chakraborty has been placed under suspension with effect from 09-04-2003 by Prasar Bharati.

Uplinking Policy for TV news channels

3191. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finally decided upon uplinking policy for TV news channels;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been prepared to provide up linking facilities only to companies with 26 per cent or less foreign equity;

(c) whether as reported in the press, uplinking norms have been revised several times;

(d) if so, the details of the guidelines finally approved; and

(e) whether there are several foreign companies whose request for 10 per cent equity is pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has issued the guidelines for news channels uplinking from India. The Guidelines for uplinking of the foreign owned news channels, *inter-alia*, permit foreign equity holding in the applicant company up to 26% of the total paid up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956 and majority of Directors, CEO and News Editor(s) to be Resident Indians.

Further, the permission for usage of facilities/infrastructure for live news/footage collection and transmission, irrespective of the technology used, will be given to only those channels which are uplinked from India and the channel/company will ensure that its news and current affairs content provider(s), if any, are accredited with the Press Information Bureau.

(e) Foreign companies who had applied for permission to uplink TV news channels have been advised to apply afresh, as per the provisions of the revised guidelines.

Advertisement of population control and prevention of AIDS

†3192. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the advertisement giving the message of population control and prevention of a dreaded disease like AIDS is very vulgar and distasteful; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not banning the said advertisement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) This Ministry had received a complaint regarding a particular advertisement on AIDS prevention. Show-cause notices have been issued to some Television channels for telecasting this Advertisement.

Time of news bulletins in DD

†3193. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to extend the time of news bulletins in Doordarshan;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to bring improvement, impartiality in the news bulletins of Doordarshan and to make them more effective to compete to other channels;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.